

There is a data sharing agreement between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU). The DOC is notified by CSRU via their EPICS system (web-based email notification system) when an offender owes child support. The payment plan, or plans for the offender are entered in the DOC banking system.

A report from the DOC banking system dated 7-7-08 indicated that 2,572 offenders had a least one child support payment plan. On that date the DOC count was 8731 offenders, so more than 29% of the offenders had at least one child support payment plan.

The offenders receive a copy of their payment plan(s). The garnishment percent is typically 50% which is determined by the plan. Then when the offender is assigned to work and is paid an allowance, 50% of that allowance is deducted and sent to the Collection Services Center.

All monies are consolidated monthly and one check is sent to the Collection Services Center. On 6-30-08, a check in the amount of \$34,527.21 was sent. A roster accompanies the check so that CSRU can apply the payments. On 6-30-08, the roster indicated there was payment from 1,896 offenders and there were 3,292 payment plans.

We have been working with CSRU for several months to implement a process that encourages offenders to have their child support obligation reviewed and adjusted based on what they are earning while working during incarceration. We have partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation through Chuck Palmer and Iowans for Social and Economic Development (ISED) to fund the production of a DVD that would promote this process to offenders and walk them through the steps involved. A contract has been signed with Munoz Productions, Inc., to produce the DVD and filming has begun, but we still have some more work to do before it is completed. We will begin the process during orientation in the institutions when the DVD is done.

We have worked with a few offenders to walk through the process to aide us in the DVD development process, but as you can tell we have not actually implemented the program. We are excited about this opportunity to address on of the many reentry issues that offenders face, and we are very pleased with our partnership with CSRU, ISED, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation that is making this happen.